



Block 2006 Development

Block 2006 represents the period of development for calendar years 2006 and 2007. Block 2006 will continue developing existing capabilities and provide new capabilities that will be added to those fielded in Block 2004. Block 2006 will also be the first block in which the Ballistic Missile Defense System will have the ability to intercept an incoming enemy missile in every phase of flight. The following are critical program areas additions that are expected to be added to the Ballistic Missile Defense System in Block 2006:

Boost Phase

- Airborne Laser: Hardware and software improvements will be added to the ground-based test platform, the Boeing 747-400 airframe, and the laser system.
- Kinetic Energy Interceptor: continue development, including international cooperation done through the international industry development program

Midcourse Phase

- Ground-based Midcourse Defense:
 - Up to 10 additional Ground-based Interceptors at Ft. Greely, Alaska (for a total of 28 Ground-based Interceptors between Ft. Greely and Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.)
 - Hardware and software improvements
 - Rigorous ground and flight-testing will involve added weapons and will test discrimination performance, and interface with external sensors.
- Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense:
 - Convert the 10 Aegis Surveillance and Track Destroyers to full Engagement/Surveillance and Track
 - Add up to five additional Aegis Surveillance and Track Destroyers
 - Add an additional Aegis Engagement/Surveillance and Track Cruiser; Up to 20 additional Standard Missile-3 interceptors

Terminal Phase

- Terminal High Altitude Air Defense: flight-tests begin in 2006; improvements made to how the interceptor finds and homes in on the enemy reentry vehicle (warhead) during what's known as the "endgame", or the period just before the intercept.
- 231 additional PAC-3 missiles (for a total of 512)

Sensors

- Two low-earth orbit satellites, equipped with sensors that can detect both heat and visible light, will be launched in 2007 to test space-based sensor concepts for target acquisition, tracking, and discrimination.

Command, Control, Battle Management, and Communications

- Enhanced Forward-Based Sensor capabilities for forward-based radars and passive optical sensors
- Additional workstations for the Combatant Commanders
- Creating a sensor netting - will give sensors the ability to work together; will improve the intercept success rate by giving the interceptors better information on their target; will allow the use of distant sensors to launch their interceptor, giving the warfighter more reaction time.